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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to terrorism

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/177, the present report reviews the progress made from 1 January 2015 to 31 May 2016 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular its Terrorism Prevention Branch, in supporting Member States with the ratification and implementation of the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism and in delivering technical assistance on the legal and criminal justice aspects of countering terrorism while responding to emerging challenges and the evolving needs of Member States. The report concludes with a set of recommendations for consideration by the Assembly.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/177 and covers activities undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in particular its Terrorism Prevention Branch, to implement that resolution during the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 May 2016. The report provides an update of the information contained in document E/CN.15/2016/5.

2. The mandate of UNODC on technical assistance in counter-terrorism was reiterated by the General Assembly in the following resolutions: resolution 70/177 on technical assistance for implementing the international conventions and protocols related to counter-terrorism; resolution 70/178 on strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity; resolution 68/276 on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review; resolution 70/120 on measures to eliminate international terrorism; and resolution 70/148 on protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

3. In addition, the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice selected terrorism prevention as a prominent theme for discussion at its twenty-fifth session. The thematic discussion on "Criminal justice responses to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the financing of terrorism, and technical assistance in support of the implementation of relevant international conventions and protocols" was held by the Commission in Vienna on 24 May 2016. The speakers focused on key policy, legal and operational challenges related to responses of the criminal justice systems to prevent and counter terrorism, including challenges related to several specialized thematic areas, and on the technical assistance required to implement the relevant international counter-terrorism framework.

4. During the reporting period, UNODC, through the Branch, further enhanced its provision of technical legal assistance and capacity-building to Member States with a view to supporting their criminal justice systems in strengthening responses to terrorism, including its emerging threats, with respect for the rule of law and human rights.

5. The Terrorism Prevention Branch has continued to provide strategic guidance for a coherent programme of activities throughout the world, focusing on specialized expertise and policy coordination. Enhanced cooperation with other branches within UNODC, in particular the Organized Crime Branch and the Justice Section, as well as with entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, such as the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, further promoted synergies and joint project implementation.

II. Delivering technical assistance

6. The objective of UNODC counter-terrorism assistance is to strengthen legal and criminal justice responses by Member States to terrorism. The Office achieves this by (a) promoting the ratification of the 19 international conventions and protocols related to terrorism and assisting Member States with the incorporation of

the provisions of those instruments into national legislation; (b) building the capacity of national officials to implement counter-terrorism legislation; and (c) promoting regional and international cooperation in criminal matters.

7. UNODC has continued to work closely with representatives of and experts from recipient countries in order to set priorities and ensure a targeted delivery of assistance on the ground. To that end, UNODC has been engaged in close consultations with permanent missions in Vienna, Geneva, Berlin and New York, as well as with national counterparts in capitals, to ensure ownership of the technical assistance programmes by recipient countries.

8. New technical assistance programmes have been developed for Algeria, Bahrain, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nigeria and Yemen. Recognizing the importance of strengthening regional cooperation, the Office has prepared regional programmes that involve countries of the Middle East and Northern Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Central and South Asia and South-Eastern Europe.

9. The Terrorism Prevention Branch has contributed to several regional and national counter-terrorism strategies, for example for countries in Central and Southern Africa. Recommendations were made, upon request, regarding the national plans of action to implement Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015) for Egypt, Iraq and Lebanon, as well as Montenegro's national plan on implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). UNODC has also contributed to the development of the national strategy of Tajikistan for preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

A. Technical assistance activities

1. Ratification and legislative assistance

10. During the reporting period, the Branch continued to provide legislative assistance to requesting Member States for harmonization of their national legislation with the provisions of the international legal instruments. This work contributed to 32 new ratifications of those instruments by Member States and to the drafting and review of more than 20 pieces of counter-terrorism legislation.

11. The Branch made good progress in reaching out to parliamentarians and policymakers to raise awareness about the universal legal regime against terrorism and parliamentary action required in this regard. In February 2015, the Italian Senate hosted a seminar in Rome for members of the parliaments of Maghreb countries on parliamentary oversight to protect human rights while countering terrorism. Furthermore, in Bucharest in October 2015, the Branch and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) organized a meeting of parliamentarians from countries of the Middle East and Northern Africa, South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean to discuss the challenges posed by a criminal justice preventive response to terrorism, including foreign terrorist fighters.

12. During the reporting period, legislative advisory services were provided to several countries, including Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, Somalia and Turkmenistan. UNODC also finalized the work on Nigeria's terrorism-related legislation and commenced legislative assistance for

the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Office provided in-depth analysis of Djibouti's criminal law regarding terrorism-related offences and of its domestic legal framework on extradition and mutual legal assistance. In addition, UNODC assisted Somalia's Parliament with the review of its 2015 counter-terrorism bill. The continued legislative assistance provided to the national committee of Tunisia resulted in the adoption of a new counter-terrorism bill by the Tunisian Council of Ministers on 24 July 2015. In March 2015, UNODC provided recommendations to the Philippines on amendments to the country's mutual legal assistance and extradition-related legislation. UNODC also responded to a few requests for legislative assistance on incorporating requirements of Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2195 (2014) and 2199 (2015) in domestic legislation, with a focus on foreign terrorist fighters and countering the financing of terrorism. In April 2016, the Branch assisted Iraq in a review of its counter-terrorism law to ensure its compliance with the international legal instruments.

2. Building capacity for implementing counter-terrorism legislation

13. From 1 January 2015 to 31 May 2016, the Branch's capacity-building training activities focused on a broad range of specialized areas of counter-terrorism, including emerging issues, in line with the stated needs and priorities of recipient Governments. Through a series of national and regional activities, participants were provided with in-depth knowledge and skills required to apply counter-terrorism legislation in their daily work and to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases more effectively, as well as to strengthen their capacity to cooperate regionally and internationally.

14. National capacity-building workshops were carried out for, inter alia, Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Maldives, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, the Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Senegal, Tunisia and Yemen. Overall, the Office assisted more than 90 Member States and carried out 138 national and regional activities through which more than 4,000 criminal justice officials were given training.

15. Technical assistance workshops for Burkina Faso, Jordan, Mali, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Somalia are good examples of UNODC capacity-building in the areas of investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism-related cases.

16. Study tours are considered to be a successful delivery method to share with criminal justice officials good practices in the area of national and international counter-terrorism. In February and March 2016, study visits to Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were organized for several Iraqi criminal justice officials. The visits concluded with a set of recommendations covering several thematic areas.

(a) Suppressing the financing of terrorism

17. Preventing terrorists from acquiring financial resources has been among the priorities of the international peace and security agenda. To that end, the Security

Council adopted several resolutions under chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, calling upon Member States to take urgent international actions to prevent and counter the financing of terrorists.

18. In fulfilling its mandate, UNODC offered comprehensive capacity-building on countering the financing of terrorism, including aspects of investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating cases of terrorist financing; freezing, seizing and confiscating terrorist assets; detecting and disrupting illicit flows used to finance terrorism; and strengthening regional and international cooperation among Member States. In those efforts, the Branch worked closely with the UNODC Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, as well as with relevant United Nations entities, such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, to name a few.

19. Activities included a regional workshop held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in May 2015 on cross-border cooperation to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts, and a regional workshop held in Algiers in February 2016 on countering the financing of terrorism for the Maghreb countries, as well as national workshops for Algeria, Cambodia, Indonesia, Jordan, the Philippines and Yemen.

20. UNODC continued to focus on assisting Member States in strengthening the capacity of their criminal justice systems to prevent kidnapping for ransom by terrorists, including by participating in the relevant initiatives of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

21. Security Council resolutions 2195 (2014) and 2199 (2015) further expanded the international legal framework against terrorist financing, including by recognizing the growing nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism and the need to work collectively to disrupt terrorists' revenues from organized crime activities. In line with that request, UNODC has been exploring ways to further strengthen its work in this area, especially in West Africa, East Africa and the Middle East and North Africa, and has launched several research projects to collect data to further inform action by the Office.

22. In 2015, the international community witnessed an increasing number of terrorist acts aimed at the destruction of the world's cultural heritage by terrorists. In response, UNODC has been working closely with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and has included detailed sessions on the financing of terrorism through the illicit sale of antiquities in several capacity-building activities, such as a regional workshop for countries of the Middle East and North Africa conducted in Egypt in May 2015, and national seminars for Egypt in November and for Lebanon in December 2015.

(b) Addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters

23. The General Assembly and the Security Council have called on Member States to take necessary actions to stop the flow of individuals travelling to conflict zones to participate in terrorist acts. In line with the relevant United Nations decisions, in

2015 UNODC initiated its technical assistance to support Member States in addressing the legal, criminal justice and operational aspects of the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and thus to help them to implement requirements of Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014).

24. In March 2015, the Branch launched a new initiative on criminal justice responses to foreign terrorist fighters for countries of the Middle East and Northern Africa and Balkan countries in partnership with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, PAM and the International Institute of Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ). Through that programme, UNODC, jointly with its partner entities, seeks to strengthen national legal frameworks and the capacity of criminal justice and law enforcement officials to efficiently respond to the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters from the national and regional perspective and to implement requirements of resolution 2178 (2014).

25. In this context, UNODC also partnered with the Hedayah centre to organize an international conference in Abu Dhabi from 26 to 28 April 2016 on preventing and countering radicalization and violent extremism as related to the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters.

26. The following workshops on criminal justice challenges in preventing and countering the flow of foreign terrorist fighters were organized:

(a) A regional conference on the threat and identification of key issues and challenges in national legislative frameworks related to foreign terrorist fighters, held jointly with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, IIJ and PAM (Malta, 23-25 March 2015);

(b) A subregional workshop on foreign terrorist fighters, threat assessment and the identification of key issues and challenges in national legislative frameworks (Dakar, 16-18 June 2015);

(c) A regional conference on effective responses to foreign terrorist fighters in South-East Asia (Bangkok, 23-25 June 2015);

(d) A regional workshop to promote regional and international cooperation for the prevention, investigation and prosecution of terrorism offences involving foreign terrorist fighters, held jointly with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 20 and 21 August 2015);

(e) A subregional workshop for the Sahel countries on criminal justice responses to foreign terrorist fighters (Dakar, 29 September to 1 October 2015);

(f) A regional conference on the role of the criminal justice system in the implementation of preventive and repressive strategies against foreign terrorist fighters, held together with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, IIJ and PAM (Saint Julian's, Malta, 27-29 October 2015);

(g) Two national workshops on the financing of foreign terrorist fighters, (Cairo, 10-12 November 2015, and Beirut, 7-9 December 2015);

(h) A national training course for Algeria on the investigation and prosecution of terrorist cases in relation to foreign terrorist fighters (Algiers, 19-21 January 2016);

(i) A national training course for Kazakhstan on supporting criminal justice capacity-building against emerging terrorist threats, including foreign terrorist fighters (Astana, 12 and 13 May 2016).

(c) Countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes

27. In response to the growing need of Member States for technical assistance related to the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, UNODC undertook a series of workshops that covered various specialized topics, such as legal tools and technical equipment necessary to conduct investigations in the national and international contexts, the preservation and recovery of digital evidence, the use of social networks, anonymous web browsing and analysis of communication channels used by terrorists.

28. Targeted technical assistance on the use of special investigative techniques in the criminal investigation of digital communication channels was delivered to Bahrain, Morocco and Tunisia. To develop and implement those activities, UNODC partnered with the Cyberterrorism Group of the Spanish Guardia Civil and the Special Operations Group of the Italian Carabinieri, as well as the Counter-Terrorism Command of the London Metropolitan Police Service. In collaboration with the Guardia Civil, the Office also organized a visit to Spain for Iraqi criminal justice officials in November 2015 and a visit by a Libyan delegation to the Advanced Institute for Investigative Techniques of the Italian Carabinieri Corps in Velletri, Italy, in April 2016.

29. UNODC has been consistently assisting Member States in setting up the necessary legal and administrative measures to criminalize the appeal of terrorism and terrorist propaganda, including on the Internet. To that end, UNODC held national training courses on effective criminal justice measures against violent extremism for Algeria in February 2015, for Iraq in April 2015 and for Maldives in September 2015.

30. In addition, from 16 to 18 November 2015, UNODC convened an expert group meeting in Vienna on implementing effective criminal justice responses for countering crimes related to terrorism and violent extremism. Experts from Member States and representatives of media, academia, civil society and the private sector discussed issues such as the role of youth and children, the use of technology to counter terrorism and violent extremism, deradicalization and reintegration.

(d) Countering chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism

31. UNODC continued to provide assistance to requesting Member States in relation to the ratification and implementation of the international instruments dealing with chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism, including the implementation of relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

32. In the past few years UNODC has devoted many efforts to strengthening international nuclear security, especially to promoting the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which entered into force on 8 May 2016. A workshop on promoting additional ratifications of this important instrument, co-organized by UNODC and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna in October 2015, was among the important events that contributed to the Amendment's entry into force.

33. Preventing terrorists from acquiring chemical materials requires a multifaceted approach that includes implementing obligations related to improvised explosive devices under Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) and recommendations of the World Customs Organization (WCO) Programme Global Shield. To address this threat, the Branch engaged with WCO and carried out a national workshop for Iraq on preventing the dual use of chemical materials for terrorist purposes, held jointly with the Spanish Guardia Civil in Madrid in October 2015.

34. Recognizing the importance of cooperation with other entities, UNODC substantively contributed to several events on promoting the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and, in its capacity as observer, to meetings of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

35. The Nuclear Security Summit held by the Government of the United States of America in Washington, D.C., on 31 March and 1 April 2016 was another important event for strengthening international nuclear security. The resulting Action Plan in Support of the United Nations provides a good platform for the Office's enhanced provision of technical assistance to Member States in the area of nuclear terrorism.

36. UNODC has also been developing a counter-terrorism legal training module on the international legal framework against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism. To obtain an expert peer review of the draft module, UNODC convened an expert group meeting in Vienna in August 2015.

(e) Addressing transport-related (civil aviation and maritime) terrorism offences

37. Transportation is a key element in today's globalized world. Illegal acts against aircraft and ships, their passengers, cargo or crew, and airports and seaports represent a serious threat to global peace, security and development. The importance of addressing this growing threat is demonstrated by the fact that 12 of the 19 international legal instruments related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism have been adopted to address violent acts against international civil aviation and maritime navigation.

38. To prevent and counter terrorist acts and serious criminal offences against means of transportation, UNODC continued to facilitate the ratification of the relevant international instruments and to strengthen the capacity of criminal justice officials to implement these standards.

39. To promote the transport-related counter-terrorism international legal framework, UNODC undertook training for Bangladesh in April 2015 and for eight South-East Asian countries in Jakarta in March 2015. In this regard, the Branch extensively utilized its counter-terrorism legal training module on transport-related (civil aviation and maritime) terrorism offences.

40. UNODC also completed the assistance to the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Aviation to support the national civil aviation legislative reform aimed at updating aviation-related legislation in accordance with international legal provisions and standards. Legislative assistance involved the provision of legal comments, in particular on the Civil Aviation Act (2006) and the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria Act (2004) as well as on the Nigerian Meteorological Agency Act (2003), the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency Act (2003), the Nigeria College of

Aviation Technology Act (1963) and the draft law on the establishment of the Accident Investigation and Prevention Bureau.

(f) Assistance and support provided to victims of acts of terrorism

41. A side event on good practices for supporting victims of terrorism within the criminal justice framework, held on the margins of the Thirteenth Crime Congress on 16 April 2015, once again demonstrated that assistance to victims of acts of terrorism should be an integral component of all effective terrorism prevention strategies.

42. The Branch continued to build Member States' capacity, upon request, to address the needs of victims of terrorism before, during and after criminal justice proceedings. The technical assistance focusing on the international legal framework and good practices for providing support and protection to victims of acts of terrorism was delivered in the form of training activities and specialized cases, such as those provided for Tunisia in May 2015 and Afghanistan and Algeria in March 2016.

43. The voices of victims are an essential instrument in countering terrorism by providing important counter-narratives, which was addressed at a workshop for Algeria on the criminal justice response to the appeal of terrorism in May 2015. Aspects of the treatment of victims of improvised explosive devices were discussed during a workshop for Afghanistan held in Kabul in June 2015.

44. The Branch continued to extensively utilize its training tool entitled *The Criminal Justice Response to Support Victims of Acts of Terrorism*. In addition, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/187, the Branch produced the publication entitled "Good practices in supporting victims of terrorism within the criminal justice framework". The new publication was prepared in close consultation with Member States, other United Nations entities and regional organizations, including during an expert group meeting in Vienna in November 2015. The publication contains a collection of good practices and provides a specialized resource for policymakers and law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners seeking to develop and implement laws, policies and institutional capacity in this area.

(g) Reinforcing human rights in criminal justice responses to terrorism

45. UNODC technical assistance activities in counter-terrorism are aimed at reinforcing the principle that effective counter-terrorism measures and respect for the rule of law and human rights standards are complementary and mutually reinforcing goals. UNODC fully integrates international human rights norms and standards into all aspects of its work, including when providing legislative and capacity-building assistance to requesting Member States.

46. To reinforce efforts in this regard, UNODC extensively used its training module entitled *Human Rights in the Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism* in the technical assistance programmes.

47. The Branch continued implementing a project on strengthening national capacity to apply human rights norms, standards and good practices in countering terrorism. To further tailor its capacity-building in this key area to the needs of

recipient countries and enhance sustainability, UNODC, in partnership with the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, developed training materials on human rights in criminal justice responses to terrorism for Nigeria and advanced work on similar training materials for Kenya. Both tools are customized to the national legal systems and expected to be incorporated in curricula by the national criminal justice sector training institutions.

48. UNODC has also entered into a strategic partnership with the Danish Institute for Human Rights for the provision of technical assistance on human rights and criminal justice responses to terrorism in sub-Saharan Africa. The first joint workshop on detention and investigation of terrorism suspects in accordance with the rule of law and human rights was held for the Niger, in cooperation with the Niger National Police School, in Niamey in June 2015.

49. The treatment of children recruited by, or otherwise associated with, terrorist groups is posing a great challenge to many Member States, which in turn have been seeking technical assistance from UNODC. The Branch and the Justice Section organized a subregional workshop for five Sahel countries on the treatment of children allegedly involved with Boko Haram as alleged offenders, victims and/or witnesses of crime, held in Dakar in October 2015. Recognizing the importance of ensuring synergies, UNODC worked closely with experts from other United Nations entities, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

50. The Branch also organized several national and regional workshops focused on human rights questions arising in the context of international cooperation against terrorism, in particular extradition and mutual legal assistance.

(h) Developing technical assistance tools

51. Since its establishment in 2003, the Branch has developed 38 technical assistance tools, such as practical guides, handbooks, manuals and counter-terrorism legal training modules, which it has used as an integral part of its capacity-building activities.

52. During the reporting period, UNODC developed three new technical assistance tools. These include the publication entitled "Good practices in supporting victims of terrorism within the criminal justice framework" and training materials for Nigeria based on the training module entitled *Human Rights and Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism*. In addition, to further facilitate regional cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism, the Branch produced a publication entitled *Compendium of Bilateral and Regional Instruments for South Asia: International Cooperation in Criminal Matters*.

53. The online Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform continued to be an important tool for capacity-building training. By 31 May 2016, 24 online training courses had been delivered. Through them, 595 criminal justice and law enforcement officials had been trained. In addition, 91 live events (real-time substantive discussions) had been carried out on various counter-terrorism issues. Many online activities were delivered jointly with INTERPOL.

54. The Branch faces increased demand from Member States for online training on various thematic areas, including emerging terrorist threats. In response, UNODC continued strengthening its online platform by developing new courses, such as two online courses on the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, jointly with the Spanish Guardia Civil, the Italian Carabinieri and the London Metropolitan Police Service, as well as one course on respect for human rights while countering terrorism.

55. In its capacity-building programmes, the Office continued to extensively use innovative training methods, such as mock trials on terrorism, terrorist financing and linkages to serious related crimes, and simulated criminal investigations.

56. UNODC also maintained its Electronic Legal Resources on International Terrorism database (www.unodc.org/tldb) and the Observatory of Jurisprudence for the Americas on counter-terrorism, its financing and serious related crimes (www.observatoriojurisprudencia.unodc.org.co).

(i) Providing technical assistance in close cooperation with national training institutions

57. To further promote professional legal training on counter-terrorism issues, the Branch continued strengthening its partnerships with criminal justice sector training institutions. To that end, UNODC has partnered with the National Police Academy of India, the Federal Judicial Academy of Pakistan, the Niger National School of Police and Permanent Training, the Nigerian National Judiciary Institute, the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, the Higher Institute of the Judiciary of Tunisia and the High Judicial Institute of Libya.

58. UNODC organized workshops for India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Tunisia and Yemen in which participants from the national training institutions were prepared as trainers.

59. UNODC has also advanced its work with national institutions, such as the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, in the development of training materials on various criminal justice aspects related to countering terrorism.

60. In addition, UNODC has launched a new project entitled "Strengthening the legal regime against emerging terrorist threats, including foreign terrorist fighters, in South-East Europe", undertaking advisory missions to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as to Kosovo.[1] Through this project, UNODC aims to develop the capacity of criminal justice training institutions to provide training on specific legal and technical aspects related to countering the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters through the development of specialized training modules tailor-made for criminal justice practitioners from the Balkan countries.

[1] All references to Kosovo in the present report should be understood to be in compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

3. Strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters pertaining to counter-terrorism

61. UNODC continued to effectively support Member States to strengthen their cooperation in criminal matters by establishing mechanisms to help facilitate requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition, which plays an essential role in the prosecution of terrorist cases that transcend national borders. Through its workshops and cooperation platforms, the Office provided networking opportunities for formal and informal cooperation among criminal justice practitioners and facilitated the exchange of counter-terrorism-related good practices and experience among Member States.

62. UNODC continued to support the regional judicial platform for the Sahel countries. In addition to the sixth annual meeting of the focal points of the platform in Dakar from 28 to 30 March 2016, the Branch held briefings to promote the platform among national criminal justice officials in Mali and Senegal.

63. Aspects of international cooperation in preventing and countering terrorism are an integral element of all UNODC technical assistance activities, including in the context of emerging terrorism-related issues. Workshops with a focus on international criminal cooperation were held for Sahel, Maghreb and South Asian countries, including an online course for South Asia in May and June 2015, delivered jointly with INTERPOL, and two regional workshops for Maghreb and Sahel countries in Tunis in March and April 2016. Under the umbrella of its foreign terrorist fighters programme for the countries of the Middle East and North Africa and the Balkan countries, UNODC facilitated a discussion among Member States on improving their cooperation to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, including at the workshops in March and October 2015.

64. In addition to regional activities, national workshops on various aspects of international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism were carried out for Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Nigeria, the Philippines and Senegal.

65. Effective coordination among all entities that deal with terrorism is also essential at the domestic level. UNODC has helped Nepal and Nigeria to improve inter-agency collaboration in countering terrorism through national training courses conducted in Kathmandu in March 2015 and in Abuja in April 2015.

B. Partnerships

66. Partnerships with entities of the United Nations system and subregional, regional and international organizations have contributed to enhanced coordination and cooperation in the delivery of technical assistance to Member States, including through joint implementation of several projects.

1. Participation in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force

67. The Branch actively participates in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which brings together 38 United Nations entities and INTERPOL, thus ensuring that its counter-terrorism work is carried out in the broader context of United Nations system-wide efforts.

68. UNODC has been working with other entities of the Task Force within the framework of the Task Force's Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism Initiative in order to further enhance the capacity of Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

69. UNODC continued to partner with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, including in the implementation of a project funded by that Centre on the organization of two mock trials on the financing of terrorism in Argentina and Colombia. Through the project, national institutions of Argentina and Colombia further developed substantive expertise and practical skills in relation to planning a successful strategy towards the trial, as well as conducting and structuring the prosecution of cases associated with acts of terrorism and its financing.

70. UNODC participated in all the thematic working groups of the Task Force. Together with the Task Force Office, the Branch chaired a working group on countering the financing of terrorism. The group entities worked on several joint projects led by UNODC, including on a system of continuous professional development for financial investigators in charge of terrorist financing, a programme on training in the detection and disruption of illicit financial flows outside the formal financial systems, as well as a new initiative of the Branch and the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism to enhance operational capability to counter the financing of terrorism for selected countries of the Middle East and North Africa. A new UNODC project on managing violent extremist prisoners and preventing radicalization to violence in prisons, which will be implemented jointly by the Branch and the Justice Section, was developed in the framework of a working group chaired by UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate on the legal and criminal justice responses to terrorism. In March 2016, the Branch represented UNODC at the annual retreat of the Task Force in New York.

71. UNODC also co-chaired with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate a working group on border management and law enforcement. In addition, the Office substantively contributed to the working groups on supporting and highlighting victims of terrorism; preventing and responding to attacks involving weapons of mass destruction; protecting critical infrastructure, vulnerable targets, the Internet and tourism security; and protecting human rights while countering terrorism. The Branch regularly participated in the meetings of the working group of the whole on national and regional counter-terrorism strategies and its activities, including the workshops on developing regional counter-terrorism strategies for Southern Africa (Gaborone, June 2015) and for Central Africa (Libreville, September 2015).

72. In the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force working group on foreign terrorist fighters, UNODC contributed, through several projects, to the Task Force's capacity-building implementation plan for countering the flow of foreign terrorist fighters.

73. As a member of the Task Force, UNODC contributed to the drafting of the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, which was presented to Member States at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 15 January 2016. UNODC also participated in the Geneva Conference on

Preventing Violent Extremism, which was co-hosted by the Government of Switzerland and the United Nations in April 2016.

74. UNODC participated in the regular coordination meetings of the Task Force, as well as briefings to Member States, the United Nations-European Union semi-annual policy dialogue and related side events.

2. Cooperation with Security Council bodies dealing with counter-terrorism

75. The counter-terrorism work of UNODC is carried out in close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate. Although the mandates are different, they are complementary and mutually supportive. The Committee and its Executive Directorate are responsible for monitoring implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), identifying technical assistance gaps and facilitating technical assistance, while the Branch is the key entity in the United Nations system delivering criminal justice capacity-building assistance related to countering terrorism to Member States.

76. UNODC participated in the Committee's assessment visits to Algeria, Cameroon, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Nigeria, Oman, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Turkey. The Committee and its Executive Directorate, in turn, provided guidance on countries in need of assistance and participated in UNODC activities, providing briefings on the role of the Committee and the priorities identified in Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and subsequent resolutions.

77. UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, in their respective capacities, have been working together to implement a European Union-funded project on effective counter-terrorism investigations and prosecutions while respecting human rights and the rule of law in the Maghreb (in progress) and in South Asia (completed in October 2015), and a partnership between Nigeria, the European Union, UNODC and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate on strengthening criminal justice responses for multidimensional security (terrorism) (completed in June 2015).

78. Cooperation continued with the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as well as with its Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, whose members provide expertise on issues related to the sanctions regime concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. The contributions of the experts from the Committee were instrumental, inter alia, at a workshop for Iraq, held in Madrid in October 2015, and at a workshop for Central Asian countries in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in August 2015, as well as in the activities of the UNODC foreign terrorist fighters initiative for the countries of the Middle East and North Africa and Balkan countries.

79. The Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) is an important UNODC counterpart on issues related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism. In addition to participating in the informal meeting of the Committee in the context of the 2016 comprehensive review of the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), held in Madrid on

13 May 2016, UNODC positively responded to several requests for assistance from Member States related to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) that were transmitted by the Committee (see also paras. 31-36 above).

3. Partnerships with other organizations

80. In order to enhance the effectiveness of its technical assistance activities, the Branch continued to work with several regional and international partners: the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Financial Action Task Force, the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), IAEA, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Monetary Fund, INTERPOL, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, OHCHR, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, UNESCO, UNICEF, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, WCO and the World Bank, to name a few. It also continued to work with a large number of regional and subregional partners, such as the African Union Commission and African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, the Council of Europe and its Committee of Experts on Terrorism, the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Economic Community of West African States, the European Union, the European Police Office and Eurojust, the Indian Ocean Commission, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, the League of Arab States, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization of American States and its Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, OSCE, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, PAM, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the South-East Asian Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), and the Southern African Development Community.

81. During the reporting period, UNODC further strengthened its technical cooperation and engaged in regular policy dialogue with the European Union. The Chief of the Branch participated in the meetings of the United Nations-European Union political dialogue on counter-terrorism, held on 6 July 2015 in New York. He also participated in the eleventh meeting of senior officials organized by the European External Action Service and the European Commission in Brussels on 4 December 2015, as well as in the preceding operational exchange meeting hosted by the European Commission's Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development. The European Union and UNODC partnered in several capacity-building projects aimed at strengthening the criminal justice capacities of Member States to prevent and combat terrorism in Nigeria, North Africa and South-East Asia. Particularly instrumental was the political and financial support announced by the European Union for the UNODC initiative on criminal justice responses to foreign terrorist fighters. The Branch also closely cooperated with the Council of Europe, attending meetings of its Committee of Experts on Terrorism.

82. Coordination and cooperation with OSCE on activities in European and Central Asian countries were further strengthened. UNODC cooperated with the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit in the organization of a regional workshop for Central Asia held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in August 2015 and a conference on criminal justice responses to prevent and counter radicalization and violent extremism that lead to terrorism in Tel Aviv, Israel, in November 2015. UNODC also participated in several OSCE initiatives, including national seminars for Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uzbekistan.

83. IAEA is an important UNODC partner for the promotion of the international legal instruments related to nuclear security, adopted under the auspices of IAEA. As part of this ongoing cooperation, UNODC and IAEA co-organized a high-level workshop on the promotion of the entry into force of the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material in Vienna in October 2015. IAEA experts also provided substantive comments for a new training module on the international legal framework against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism.

84. UNODC continued to partner with INTERPOL in the development and delivery of capacity-building activities in the field and online activities delivered through the UNODC Counter-Terrorism Learning Platform. The Office contributed to various INTERPOL initiatives, such as its programme on counter-terrorism training for law enforcement and the judiciary and the "e-extradition" initiative for a secure electronic workflow for the transmission of requests for extradition.

85. The Branch has also intensified contacts and cooperation with multilateral parliamentary institutions, such as IPU and PAM. UNODC was represented at the 133rd and 134th sessions of the IPU General Assembly, which were held in Geneva in October 2015 and in Lusaka in March 2016, respectively. The UNODC Executive Director also attended the Tenth Plenary Session of PAM in Tirana in February 2016.

86. In the context of the UNODC South-East Asian subprogramme on criminal justice responses to terrorism, cooperation continued with ASEAN and SEARCCT. UNODC and SEARCCT have been partnering in a research project on radicalization processes in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. SEARCCT is also a member of the counter-terrorism activity coordination platform (www.ctacsea.com) launched by UNODC for facilitating informal networking in capacity-building programmes on counter-terrorism in South-East Asia. Cooperation was further enhanced with SAARC, including by publishing for the members of the Association a compendium on international cooperation in criminal matters.

87. The Branch has been working closely with the African Union Commission and its African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism, with both sides providing expertise in each other's technical assistance activities in Africa.

88. The Branch also has a well-established partnership with the IGAD security sector programme in developing and delivering assistance to IGAD member countries in East Africa. UNODC participated in several IGAD activities, such as a workshop held in Bishoftu, Ethiopia, in March 2015 on effective intra- and inter-agency cooperation and coordination in the Horn of Africa region and an IGAD-GCTF regional workshop held in Nairobi in October 2015 on the development and use of forensic evidence in counter-terrorism.

89. UNODC participated in GCTF sessions and working groups, in particular those on capacity-building in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, on the rule of law and criminal justice, and on foreign terrorist fighters. The Branch also attended the Forum's Coordinating Committee meetings in Doha in May 2015, in New York in September 2015 and in The Hague in April 2016, as well as the fifth GCTF ministerial session, which took place in New York on 27 September 2015. In addition, the Branch substantively contributed to several meetings hosted by GCTF.

90. UNODC enjoys excellent cooperation with OHCHR, including under the umbrella of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force working group on promoting and protecting human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism, as well as in the delivery of capacity-building activities. In June 2015, the Branch contributed to the panel discussion organized by OHCHR in Geneva on the margins of the twenty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council.

4. Cooperation with donors and recipients

91. In order to ensure that national and regional terrorism prevention programmes are tailored to national needs and take into account the regional context, the Branch ensures full country ownership of such programmes and broad-based partnership and coordination for the implementation of its activities. To ensure this tailored approach, the Branch, including through its network of field offices, is in regular contact with the permanent missions in Vienna, Geneva and New York and with ministries of foreign affairs, justice and interior, and carries out extensive consultations.

92. UNODC is most grateful to its donors for their invaluable substantive and financial support. As of May 2016, pledges and contributions had been made by the following Member States: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States. Pledges and contributions had also been made by the following organizations: Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, European Union, IMO, INTERPOL, International Organization of la Francophonie, Indian Ocean Commission, OSCE, Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, Verification Research, Training and Information Centre, and Folke Bernadotte Academy. (Total contributions were more than $85 million.)

93. Several Member States also supported the Branch through the participation of their national experts in its technical assistance activities.

C. Monitoring technical assistance activities and assessing their impact

94. Ensuring the effectiveness of its activities and their relevance to the needs of Member States are key priorities of the Branch.

95. Following its capacity-building activities, the Branch collects and analyses feedback questionnaires from recipients of technical assistance. The reports are

helpful for programme managers in assessing the relevance of the assistance provided in relation to the work and needs of recipients, identifying areas where further assistance is needed and thereby improving future programming and maximizing the impact of the assistance delivered.

96. Strong results-based management and reporting tools have helped the Branch to demonstrate measurable results. To date, the Branch has been using several tangible indicators, such as the increase in the number of States assisted by UNODC in becoming parties to the international legal instruments, the number of countries assisted in drafting legislation and the number of national officials trained.

97. In 2014 and 2015, the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism undertook an in-depth independent evaluation, led by the UNODC Independent Evaluation Unit. In its report, the evaluation team highlighted the role of the Branch as the key United Nations provider of legal and capacity-building assistance in the criminal justice field, as well as the significant progress made in reaching out to an increased number of Member States and continued efforts in adapting assistance to the emerging priorities of the beneficiaries. The report also notes several positive achievements of the Branch throughout the years and acknowledges the high quality of the specialized technical assistance tools developed, including its Counter-Terrorism Online Platform, as well as the excellent working relations with its key United Nations partners, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

98. The evaluation team issued several recommendations for further enhancing the effectiveness, quality and efficiency of the counter-terrorism programmes, including improved cooperation between the Branch in Vienna and the field offices, the review of technical assistance sustainability strategies, the development of impact indicators and the establishment of a functioning monitoring and evaluation system. The Branch has taken several concrete steps to address these recommendations.

III. Priorities of the Terrorism Prevention Branch for 2016

99. In 2016, the Branch will continue to enhance its legal and capacity-building assistance to Member States with the objective of preventing and countering terrorism, upon their request. In particular, the Branch will continue to support Member States in ensuring the incorporation of the provisions of the international legal instruments into national legislation, as well as promoting the ratification of the 19 international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism, particularly those with a low level of ratification or those which have not yet entered into force, including the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation and the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft.

100. In line with requests by Member States and relevant United Nations resolutions, UNODC will strengthen its capacity-building programmes to support Member States in newly emerging thematic areas such as foreign terrorist fighters and their radicalization, the growing nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism, the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage by terrorists, and the

treatment of children associated with violent extremist groups, including terrorist groups.

101. The Branch will also continue developing and implementing tailored country-specific, long-term technical assistance programmes and ensure that they respond to the priorities of Member States.

102. The Branch will reinforce its efforts to develop further thematic knowledge and delivery tools, such as its technical publications and modules under the counter-terrorism legal training curriculum. The web-based online training platform will be further expanded to meet new technical and thematic requirements.

103. Human rights will continue to be an integral element of all project proposals, including by reiterating the importance of respecting human rights and the rule of law.

104. Implementation of recommendations of the 2014 in-depth independent evaluation of the Global Programme on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism will be among the priorities for the Branch in 2016.

105. In addition, the Branch will continue to ensure cost efficiency and transparency with donor Governments and relevant intergovernmental bodies, further strengthen communication with Member States and factor in their guidance and views in fine-tuning ongoing country-specific and regional projects.

106. Finally, the Branch intends to further strengthen cooperation with offices within UNODC, with the other United Nations counter-terrorism entities and with international and regional organizations in order to avoid duplication and ensure synergies in the delivery of technical assistance.

IV. Recommendations

107. The General Assembly may wish to express gratitude to donor countries for the voluntary contributions made available to UNODC and to invite Member States to increase the level of extrabudgetary and regular budget resources to enable the Office to continue to implement its work in the area of terrorism prevention.

108. The General Assembly may wish to encourage those Member States which have not yet done so to accede to and/or ratify, as well as fully implement, the 19 international legal instruments to prevent and combat terrorism, with assistance from UNODC as needed.

109. The General Assembly may wish to invite Member States to avail themselves of the capacity-building assistance provided by UNODC in order to build the capacity of criminal justice officials to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases.

110. The General Assembly may wish to encourage Member States to increase international and regional cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism by developing formal and informal mechanisms to assist with requests for mutual legal assistance and extradition.

111. The General Assembly may wish to encourage Member States to utilize the capacity-building assistance provided by UNODC to strengthen their criminal

justice systems, including with regard to newly emerging threats such as foreign terrorist fighters and their radicalization, the growing nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism, the destruction of cultural heritage by terrorists, as well as the treatment of children associated with violent extremist groups, including terrorist groups.

112. The General Assembly may wish to provide further guidance with regard to the UNODC technical assistance work on the criminal justice aspects of countering terrorism, in terms of both content and delivery mechanisms, and to better tailor the assistance to the evolving needs of Member States.